



Saguaro National Park (East) Naturalist Program Schedule March, 2015

Programs meet at the Rincon Mountain Visitor Center, 3693 S. Old Spanish Trail unless otherwise noted. All programs are subject to change. Call the visitor center at (520) 733-5153 for updates. See www.nps.gov/sagu for other programs.

March 1, 8, 22, 11:00 a.m. **The GIANT Cactus** *¾ mile guided walk*
Saguaro National Park is famous for its gigantic saguaros. Still, you have to know where to look to find a real giant among giants. The best way is to join a ranger for a walk along a desert wash for a lesson in trees of the desert and a look at the only tree-like cactus in the U.S. You'll be surprised by the size! Sturdy shoes and water are recommended

March 2, 3, 6, 9, 10, 12, 13, 16, 17 10:00 a.m. **Sonoran Lifestyles** *1 mile guided walk*
19, 20, 23, 24, 26, 27, 30, 31
Join a park naturalist on this 2-hour, 1-mile walk to discover how plants and animals adapt to life in the desert. Wear comfortable walking shoes and bring water.

March 2, 3, 9, 10 11:00 a.m. **A Taste of the Desert** *Garden walk*
Join us for a stroll through our cactus garden and learn what plants can be used for food, clothing, medicine, shelter and much more. *Wheelchair accessible.*

March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 2:00 p.m. **Reptiles of the Sonoran Desert** *Presentation*
Join park naturalist Bob Brandner for this 30-minute presentation to discover the fascinating world of reptiles and amphibians. *Wheelchair accessible.*

March 4, 11, 18, 25 11:00 a.m. **Flash, Whoosh, Gush, and Growth: Sonoran Desert Monsoon Rain** *Presentation*
The summer heat and humidity bring the mighty and sometimes destructive monsoon rain. Saguaros, toads, and others depend on these drenching afternoons to begin a new season of life in the dry desert. *Wheelchair accessible.*

March 4 1:00 p.m. **Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail** *Talk: 45 minutes*
In 1775 Juan Bautista de Anza began a year long journey with 240 people intent on developing an overland route from Mexico to San Francisco to found a mission and presidio to help secure Spanish outposts in Northern California. Along the way, the Anza Trail passed through or near Nogales, Tubac, Tucson, Casa Grande, Phoenix, and Yuma. This program provides an overview of the journey and the history of the trail, as well as a short video and a question and answer period. *Wheelchair accessible.*

March 5, 12, 19, 26 2:00 p.m. **The Saguaro Nursery** *½ mile guided walk*
The reports of the saguaro's demise were greatly exaggerated! Take a stroll along a trail to see the next generation of young saguaros and the gradual renewal of the "Cactus Forest"

March 6, 20 8:00 a.m. **Desert Bird Walk** *1 mile guided walk*
Join volunteer naturalist Ralph Terry for an easy 2-hour walk in search of desert birds. Wear comfortable walking shoes and bring water.

March 6, 13, 20, 27 11:00 a.m. **Naturalist Table** *Patio Talk*
Join a park naturalist on the visitor center patio to explore a variety of natural history topics. *Wheelchair accessible.*

March 6, 13, 20, 27 2:00 p.m. **Drive-Thru Geology** *1 hour auto tour*
Hop in your car for a journey through 25 million years of earth history...in one hour! We'll observe the varied landforms of the desert – bajadas, washes, outcrops – and find out why geology students from around the world come to see the Rincon Mountain foothills. (Hint: it's the mylonitic gneiss!)

- March 6. 20** 3:00 p.m. **History is a Work in Progress** *Presentation*
Join us in the visitor center auditorium to explore the almost forgotten names of people and places from the late 1800's in the area of the Rincon Mountains. *Wheelchair accessible.*
- March 6, 20** 7:00 p.m. **Night Walk** *1 mile guided walk*
Join a park naturalist for this easy two-hour hike to explore and experience the Sonoran Desert at night. Dress for the weather, wear comfortable walking shoes, and bring water and a flashlight. As space is limited, **advanced reservations are required**, and can be made by calling 733-5153.
- March 7, 21** 10:00 a.m. **Meet the Cholla** *Guided walk*
On this easy walk, you will be introduced to the diverse members of the cholla cactus family and their relationships with the desert community
- March 7** 11:00 a.m. **Escapers, Evaders, Endurers** *Presentation*
Sonoran Desert plants use a variety of tactics to thrive in this hot, dry climate. Join naturalist Rich Hayes in the visitor center auditorium for an exploration into desert plants.
- March 7, 21, 28** 2:00 p.m. **Dynamic Duos** *Guided walk*
Peanut butter and jelly. Day and night. Abbott and Costello. Sal y Limon. When two things combine, the result can be a great partnership. Learn how plants and animals have formed dynamic duos in Saguaro National Park in this easy, 2-mile walk.
- March 7** 3:00 p.m. **Wildflower Wander** *Easy Stroll*
Join park staff in search of spring wildflowers and find out which ones are blooming now and which will bloom soon!
- March 7, 14, 21, 28** 5:30 p.m. **Sunset Stroll** *½ mile guided walk*
Sonoran Desert sunsets are famous for their blazing colors. Join a park ranger on this ½ mile walk on a rocky trail to discover how nature will paint the sky tonight.
- March 11, 18, 25** 10:00 a.m. **Desert Discovery** *2-mile guided hike*
Join park naturalists on this two-hour, 2-mile walk to discover the secrets of the Sonoran Desert. Sturdy footwear and water are recommended.
- March 13, 27** 3:00 p.m. **Creating Saguaro National Park** *Presentation*
Join staff in the visitor center auditorium to discover how abuse, failure, politics, commitment, recovery and the Tucson Garden Club all played a part in creating today's Saguaro National Park. *Wheelchair accessible.*
- March 14, 21, 28** 11:00 a.m. **History 101** *Guided walk*
Join a park ranger on a 1 to 2-mile walk and learn about some of the history that has made Saguaro National Park the great place it is today.
- March 15, 29** 1:00 p.m. **Meet the Hohokam** *Presentation*
Join a park ranger in the visitor center auditorium for a hands-on introduction to the prehistoric people who once called Saguaro National Park home. *Wheelchair accessible.*
- March 15, 29** 3:00 p.m. **Medicinal Plants of the Desert** *Presentation*
Learn about some of the native plants that are both easy on the eye and can make you feel better as well. *Wheelchair accessible.*
- March 19** 7:00 p.m. **Star Party** *Illustrated program & activity*
Join park naturalists for an introduction to astronomy and a look at the desert night sky. Telescopes and binoculars will be available. **Reservations required. Call 733-5153.** *Wheelchair accessible.*
- March 26** 1:00 p.m. **Where the Chicks Hang Out*** *Presentation*
The most exciting time to observe birds is when they are nesting and raising young. Join desert naturalist Pinau Merlin in the visitor center auditorium for a fun peek into the lives of some of our local favorites (such as roadrunners and hummingbirds) and discover what strategies they use for successfully raising their families. *Wheelchair accessible.*